

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07  
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03  
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13  
DHA-02 ARA-10 AF-10 /115 W  
-----013141 302108Z /75

R 301732Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5597  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY  
USDOCOSOUTH  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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USEEC  
USOECN  
DOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, EFIN, IT, LY  
SUBJECT: OPENING OF UIL NATIONAL CONVENTION

REFS: ROME 10666, 8527

1. SUMMARY. THE UIL NATIONAL CONVENTION OPENED IN BOLOGNA  
UNE38 WITH AN COMPREHENSIVE ADDRESS BY SECRETARY GENERAL  
BENVENUTO. THE FAMILIAR BENVENUTO POSITIONS, PARTICULARLY  
HIS SHARP ATTACKS ON THE IMF AND THE TERMS ACCEPTED BY  
ITALY IN THE LETTER OF INTENT, WERE REITERATED AT LENGTH.  
WHILE WELCOMING PCI PARTICIPATION IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS,  
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BENVENUTO STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE PCI'S COOPERATIVE RELATIONS  
WITH THE GGOVERNMENT. HE EXCORIATED THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED  
CGIL FOR IMPOSING THIS SAME ATTITUDE ON THE LABOR MOVMENT.  
CGIL SECRETARY GENERAL LAMA, PRESENT AT THE CONVENTION, WAS  
CLEARLY UNHAPPY WITH THE BENVENUTO SPEECH. THE VAST MAJORITY  
OF THE CONGRESS, HOWEVER, WAS NOT: BENVENUTO WAS CHEERED  
RESOUNDINGLY AT MANY POINTS. HE SHOULD EXPERIENCE LITTLE

DIFFICULTY IN CONTINUING HIS CONTROL OVER THE UIL. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FOUR HOUR KEY NOTE SPEECH DELIVERED BY SECRETARY GENERAL GIORGIO BENVENUTO IN ONLY W 1/2 HOURS OPENED THE 7TH QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE LABOR CONFEDERATION UIL IN BOLOGNA JUNE 28. THE UIL, COMPOSED OF A PLURALITY OF SOCIALISTS PLUS SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS, IS THE SMALLEST OF ITALY'S THREE LABOR CONFEDERATIONS AND THE LAST TO HOLD ITS NATIONAL CONVENTION.

3. IN GENERAL, BENVENUTO'S SPEECH WAS A COMPENDIUM OF ALL THE POSITIONS WITH WHICH HE HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED THESE RECENT MONTHS, AND WHICH DIFFER LITTLE FROM THE POSITIONS BEING ENUNCIATED BY HIS SOCIALIST PARTY.

4. THUS , ON TWO OCCASIONS HE WELCOMED THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE DISCRIMINATION FORMERLY PRACTICED AGAINST THE COMMUNIST PARTY, AND URGED PCI ENTRY INTO THE GOVERNMENT. AT THE SAME TIME, BENVUTO OPPOSED THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE AND LAUNCHED STRONG BUT VEILED CRITICISM AGAINST THE PCI AND THE CGIL. HE SAID THAT THE RESULTS OF LAST YEAR'S POLITICAL ELECTIONS RATHER THAN BEING TRANSLATED INTO A TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIETY, HAVE, IN EFFECT, CAUSED THE LABOR MOVEMENT "TO BE HITCHED TO THE PURPOSES AND INTENTIONS OF THE STATE" WHICH IS RUN BY THE DC. HE WAS SAYING, IN EFFECT, THAT THE CGIL HAS SUCCESSFULLY IMPOSED ON THE LABOR MOVEMENT (THROUGH ITS ADVOCACY OF MODERATION) THE POLICY OF COOPERATION THROUGH ABSTENTION WHICH THE PCI HAS ASSUMED VERSUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE MINORITY DC GOVERNMENT.

5. AFTER AN ELOQUENT DENUNCIATION OF THE INCREASING RESORT TO VIOLENCE, BENVENUTO, TO GREAT APPLAUSE, INSISTED ON THE RIGHT OF THE POLICE TO ORGANIZE, AND IF THEY WISHED, TO JOIN THE UNIFIED LABOR FEDERATION (CCU). UNLESS THIS IS FACILITATED BY THE PROGRAM ACCORDS CURRENTLY BEING NEGOTIATED BY THE PARTIES, BENVENUTO PROPOSED THAT THE CCU CALL A GENERAL STRIKE TO THIS END.

6. BENVENUTO REITERATED HIS SHARP CRITICISM OF THE TERMS OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOI AND THE IMF, CALLING THEM "INTERNATIONAL BLACK-MAIL" AND DESCRIBED THE CONDITIONS OF THE LETTER OF INTENT AS "PROGRAMMED UNDERDEVELOPMENT: UNDER-UTILIZATION OF RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY OF MANPOWER".

7. HIS REMARKS ON LABOR UNITY WERE HIGHLIGHTED BY THREE POINTS:

A. INTRODUCTION INTO THE CCU FABRIC "AT ALL LEVELS" OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FACTORY COUNCILS, " ELECTED DIRECTLY WITHOUT IDENTIFICATION WITH ANY LABOR CONFEDERATION".

B. DEFINITIVE REAFFIRMATION OF THE PRINCIPLE ON ORGANIC

UNITY, I.E., EVENTUAL MERGER OF THE THREE CONFEDERATIONS, BUT

C. GUARANTEES AGAINST "NUMERICAL HEGEMONIZATION" I.E.,  
REJECTION OF THE CGIL'S CALL FOR PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IN  
THE CCU IN PLACE OF THE CURRENT SYSTEM UNDR WHICH THE UIL IS  
AN EQUAL PARTNER WITH THE CGIL AND CISL.

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8. ON INTERNATIONAL MATTERS, BENVENUTO CALLED FOR A STRUGGLE  
AGAINST THE "FASCIST DICTATORSHIPS OF LATIN AMERICA" AND "THE  
RACIAL OPPRESSORS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA". HE ALSO SPOKE OUT STRONGLY  
TO POWERFUL APPLAUSE, AGAINST THE SUPPRESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
TO EASTERN EUROPE. HE PROPOSED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FORMAL  
CCU INQUIRY INTO THE CONDITIONS THERE. BENVENUTO ANNOUNCED THAT  
MONIES WERE BEING SENT TO DISSIDENT WORKER GROUPS IN POLAND  
AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

9. COMMENT: JUDGING BY THE REACTION OF THE CONVENTION, BENVENUTO  
APPEARS TO HAVE MATTERS WELL IN HAND AND SHOULD EXPERIENCE NO  
SERIOUS THREAT TO HIS CONTINUATION IN OFFICE. HE WAS GREETED WITH  
A STANDING OVATION BOTH AT THE BEGINNING AND THE CONCLUSION OF HIS  
SPEECH. THE ONLY UNRESOLVED PROBLEM IS THE EXTENT TO WHICH

THE UNHAPPINESS OF EX-SYG VANNI AND HIS  
FELLOW REPUBLICANS, OVER WHAT THEY REGARD AS SOCIALIST  
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DOMINATION OF THE UIL, WILL BE EXPRESSED IN CRITICISIM OF  
BENVENUTO AND THE UIL'S PSI LEADERSHIP.  
THE UIL INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES WERE VERY EMBAARRASSED  
AND CONCERNED OVER THE EPISODE INVOLVING THE AFL-CIO. AN INVITATION  
WAS EXTENDED TO AFL-CIO. WHEN THEY INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD BE  
REPRESENTED BY IRVING BROWN, AGAINST WHOM A PROLONGED CAMPAIGN  
OF CULUMNIATION HAS BEEN CONDUCTED IN THE ITALIAN PRESS, BENVENUTO  
IN EFFECT DISINVITED BROWN. AS GIOACCHINO FERIOLI TOLD THE LABOR  
ATTACHE, FOR BENVENUTO TO GO SEE QUADHAFI IN LIBYA (SEE ROME 8527)  
AND THEN TREAT THE AFL-CIO AND BROWN IN THIS WAY IS INTOLERABLE.  
FERIOLI, WHO IS SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATING QUITTING HIS POSITION, IS  
DISTRESSED AT THE PROSPECT THAT THE TENUOUS AFL-CIO-UIL TIES  
HE HAS LONG PRESERVED WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY WILL BE  
DESTROYED.

11. THE CONVENTION CONCLUDES ON JULY 3.  
GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Subject:** OPENING OF UIL NATIONAL CONVENTION  
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